

Claims.

1. The method of physically coupling a device that includes an electronic means to one at least keys.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein said coupling is maintained in part at least when said one at least keys is not attached to a key grouping means.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein said electronic means is coupled in part at least after manufacture of said one at least keys.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein said electronic means includes one at least address decoding means.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein said electronic means includes one at least indicator means.
6. The method of claim 5 wherein said indicator means includes one at least illumination means.
7. The method of claim 1 wherein said electronic means includes one at least electronically readable ID means.
8. The method of claim 7 wherein said ID means facilitates the identification of one at least locks that said one at least keys is able to action.
9. The method of claim 7 wherein said ID means facilitates the selection of one at least keys from one at least other keys.
10. The method of physically coupling one at least electronically operable and/or addressable indicator means to one at least keys.
11. The method of claim 10 wherein said indicator means is used to facilitate selection of one at least first keys from one at least second keys.
12. The method of Claim 10 wherein said indicator means is used to facilitate inputting and/or outputting of information pertaining to use of said one at least keys.
13. The method of Claim 10 wherein said indicator means is a component part of one at least Local Key Means.
14. The method of Claim 10 wherein said indicator means is retrofitted to one at least keys.
15. The method of Claim 10 wherein said indicator means is manufactured as an integral part of one at least keys.

16. The method of Claim 15 wherein said integral is in part at least in the handle of said keys.
17. The method of Claim 1 wherein operation of said electronic means is facilitated by a second means coupled by conductor means.
18. The method of Claim 17 wherein said conductor means are electrical.
19. The method of Claim 17 wherein said second means includes a key grouping means.
20. The method of Claim 17 wherein said second means includes a key control means.
21. The method of Claim 20 wherein said key control means is coupled to a key tag.
22. The method of Claim 1 wherein operation of said electronic means is facilitated by a second means coupled by infrared means.
23. The method of Claim 1 wherein operation of said electronic means is facilitated by a second means coupled by RF means.
24. The method of coupling an electronically readable ID means to one at least keys.
25. The method of Claim 24 wherein a first ID Means is coupled to a first key and a second ID means is coupled to a second key and one at least ID means facilitates selection of said first keys from said second keys.
26. The method of Claim 24 wherein said ID Means facilitates selection of one at least keys for use with one at least locks.
27. The method of Claim 24 wherein said ID means facilitates determination of one at least target locks for one at least keys.
28. The method of coupling an electronically addressable memory storage means to one at least keys.
29. The method of Claim 28 wherein said memory storage means includes electronically stored information describing one at least locks that said key is able to action.
30. The method of Claim 29 wherein said electronically stored information is read.
31. The method of Claim 29 wherein said electronically stored information is written.

32. The method of Claim 28 wherein said memory storage means is included in part at least in one at least Local Key Means.

33. The method of Claim 28 wherein said memory storage means is included in part at least in one at least Key Grouping Means.

34. The method of Claim 28 wherein said memory storage means is included in part at least in one at least Key Control Means.

35. The method of Claim 34 wherein said Key Control Means is included in part at least in one at least key tags.

36. The method of coupling a means to one at least locks wherein said means includes one at least of:- i) electronically readable Lock ID means; ii) electronically readable and/or writeable description of one at least keys that is able to action said lock(s).

37. The method of Claim 36 wherein said reading and/or writing includes RFID Means.

38. The method of Claim 37 wherein reading and/or writing means for said RFID means are included in part at least in one at least Key Tags and/or Key Grouping Means.

39. The method of coupling at least one electrical power conductor and/or at least one electrical return conductor to one at least Key Grouping Means.

40. The method of Claim 39 wherein one at least Keys attach by an attachment means to said Key Grouping Means and interface to said one at least power conductors and/or said one at least return conductors in a manner that permits part at least of electronic means attached to said key to receive power from a power means.

41. The method of Claim 40 wherein one at least said keys is reversibly attached.

42. The method of Claim 40 wherein said electronic means in part at least are on the key side of the attachment means.

43. The method of Claim 40 wherein part at least of said power means is attached to one at least Key Grouping Means.

44. The method of Claim 40 wherein part at least of said power means is attached to one at least Key Control Means.

45. The method of Claim 39 wherein one at least said conductors forms part at least of a means that transfers data and power on a single conductor.

46. The method of Claim 39 wherein one at least means may move in an arc around said Key Grouping Means while maintaining one at least electrical connections to one at least said conductors.

47. The method of Claim 46 wherein one at least said means is a key.

48. The method of Claim 46 wherein one at least means is a Key Control Means.

49. The method of providing an electronic means that includes one at least of:-

- i) means to electronically read one at least Lock ID means;
- ii) memory storage means that stores one at least Lock ID means;
- iii) memory storage means that stores one at least Key ID Means;
- iv) memory storage means that stores one at least descriptions pertaining to one at least locks;
- v) means to electrically couple to one at least Key Grouping Means;
- vi) means to facilitate the activation of one at least illumination means coupled to one at least keys.

50. The method of claim 49 that also includes one at least of:-

- i) microprocessor means;
- ii) display means;
- iii) sound output means;
- iv) sound input means;
- v) keyboard input means;
- vi) means to reversibly attach to one at least Key Grouping Means;
- vii) means to read information from one at least unattached keys;
- viii) means to read information from one at least keys attached to a Key Grouping Means;
- ix) secure processing means;
- x) means to provide essential functions to one at least electronic accessory means.

51. The method steps of:-

- a) electronically reading one at least Lock ID means; and
- b) using said Lock ID to determine the electronic ID and/or electronic address of one at least keys that facilitate actioning one at least locks coupled to said Lock ID means; and
- c) facilitating illumination of one at least illumination means coupled to one at least said keys.

52. The method step of electronically reading the electronic address and/or electronic ID means and/or other information coupled to one at least keys, and using part at least of said information to facilitate determination of one at least target locks actionable by said one at least keys.

53. The method of Claim 52 wherein information pertaining to one at least target locks is made available to one at least humans.

54. The method of Claim 52 wherein one at least said keys is not attached to a key grouping means.

55. The method of Claim 52 wherein one at least keys is attached to a key grouping means.

56. The method of Claim 52 wherein said other information is read electronically from a memory storage means.

57. The method of Claim 56 wherein said other information includes descriptive information about i) one at least said target locks and/or ii) one at least means coupled to one at least said target locks.

58. The method of automatically attaching and/or detaching one at least keys to and/or from one at least key grouping means.